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said positive electrode and said negative electrode are laminated such that the surfaces on which said solid-electrolyte layers were formed are disposed opposite to each other and wound in the lengthwise direction,

said solid-electrolyte layer formed on said positive electrode and said solid-electrolyte layer formed on said negative electrode are integrated with each other so as to be formed into a continuous shape, and

said positive electrode, said negative electrode and said solid-electrolyte layer are packaged in a packaging film.

7. (Once amended.) A method of manufacturing a solid-electrolyte battery comprising:
- a first electrolyte layer forming step for forming a solid-electrolyte layer on a positive electrode;
 - a second electrolyte layer forming step for forming a solid-electrolyte layer on a negative electrode;
 - a winding step for laminating said positive electrode having said solid-electrolyte layer formed thereon and said negative electrode having said solid-electrolyte layer formed thereon such that the surfaces on which said solid-electrolyte layers have been formed are disposed opposite to each other and winding said positive electrode and said negative electrode to form wound electrodes; and
 - a heat treatment step for subjecting said wound electrodes obtained in said winding step to heat treatment so that said solid-electrolyte layer formed on said positive electrode and said solid-electrolyte layer formed on said negative electrode are integrated with each other to form a continuous shape.

Marked-up versions of these amended claims are provided in Appendix A attached herewith.

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected all pending claims, i.e. claims 1 - 8, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Narang et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,168,885). The Examiner has also

objected to claim 4 citing an informality. The Applicants have corrected the informality in claim 4, and respectfully traverse the Examiner's §103(a) rejection for the reasons discussed below.

Claim Informalities

Per the Examiner's suggestion, the Applicants have amended claim 4 to replace "an" with "a" in line 6. Accordingly, the informality in claim 4 cited by the Examiner is now resolved.

§103(a) Rejection

The Examiner has essentially alleged that the elements of the present invention are taught by Narang et al, with the exception of a few elements which allegedly would be obvious to those skilled in the art. The Applicants respectfully submit that Narang et al, and what is alleged by the Examiner as known, do not render obvious the elements of the present invention. On the contrary, Narang et al teaches away from at least one element of the present invention that is recited as a limitation in the pending claims.

The three pending independent claims, i.e. claims 1, 4 and 7, each recite the limitation that the electrolyte layers formed on the positive electrode and the negative electrode are "integrated with each other to [form] a continuous shape." This is an important element of the present invention that is not suggested or rendered obvious by Narang et al. Actually, Narang et al teaches away from this element because it teaches using separators between electrodes of batteries. (See column 3, lines 18 - 20 of Narang et al.) The feature of directly joining the two electrodes in the present invention is novel and unobvious because it is not taught, anticipated, or rendered obvious by Narang et al. Accordingly, the present invention as claimed in all of the pending independent claims is not obvious in view of Narang et al, but is patentably distinguishable therefrom.

Additionally, the Examiner is respectfully requested to note that Narang et al teaches heating its device to enable easy penetration into the electrode pores and to plasticize the polymer. (See column 10, lines 45 - 48 of Narang et al.) But in the present invention, on the other hand, the polymer electrolyte has already dried before. Therefore, Narang et al teaches away from the present invention for this additional reason.

Pending claims 2 - 3, 5 - 6 and 8 are dependent claims that depend on independent claims 1, 4 or 7. Because independent claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over Narang et al as discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims are likewise patentably distinguishable over this reference because they incorporate the limitations of their respective

parent independent claim, i.e. claim 1, 4 or 7. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request that the rejections of these dependent claims under §103(a) also be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

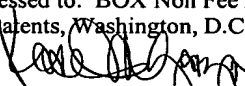
In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that pending claims 1 – 8 are patentably distinguishable over the references cited by the Examiner. Further, all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been addressed herein. It is, therefore, submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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By: 

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